

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed December 3, 2004. No fee is due for the addition of any new claims. A Petition for Extension of Time to Respond is submitted herewith, together with the appropriate fee.

Claims 1-42 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-42. The present Reply cancels claims 20-22, amends claims 1, 3, 13, 24 and 41 and adds new claims 43-45, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims 1-19, and 23-45. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(B) OVER *GRAHAM* (WO 98/51078)

Claims 1-15, 17, 20-36, 38, and 41-42

The Examiner rejected claims 1-15, 17, 20-36, 38, and 41-42 as being anticipated by WO 98/51078 to *Graham*. Applicants request cancellation of claims 20-22. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-15, 17, 23-36, 38 and 41-42.

In the Office Action, the Examiner writes that regarding claim 1, *Graham* discloses "a screen (40, fig. 1) adapted to display a subject, the screen having a posture adapted to be controlled by the subject, and a camera (50, fig. 1) adjacent to the screen...wherein the camera is trained on the desired location, a gaze of the subject is displayed by the screen appears substantially directed at the desired location (page 3 line 5-18, page 5, lines 19-page 6, line 25)." See OA, page 2. The Examiner writes that regarding claim 24, *Graham* discloses a system to facilitate communication "wherein when the camera is trained on the selected participant gaze of the subject displayed by the screen appears substantially directed at the selected participant." See OA, page 3. However, *Graham* fails to disclose a communication system "wherein motion of the camera relative to the screen is confined such that when the camera is trained on the desired location (selected participant), a gaze of the subject displayed by the screen appears substantially directed at the desired location (selected participant)," as recited in claims 1 and 24. Referring to Figures 11, 11a, 11b and 14b, *Graham* describes an apparatus including an independently mounted and movable video camera 50. *Graham* states that "in either automatic or manual mode, the switch unit 63 sens on a pan/tilt/zoom control signal...to the camera pan/tilt/zoom control unit 53...The switch unit 57 passes on the selected signal as a rotating upper stage control signal ('RUSCS') to the rotating upper stage drive unit 23...the rotating upper stage 24

is essentially driven to the same pan position as the video camera 50.” See page 13, line 17-page 14, line 31. *Graham* teaches moving a video camera, tracking the video camera movement, and then moving the upper stage to align with the video camera. Nowhere does *Graham* disclose a communication system “wherein motion of the camera relative to the screen is confined such that when the camera is trained on the desired location (selected participant), a gaze of the subject displayed by the screen appears substantially directed at the desired location (selected participant),” as recited in claims 1 and 24. By confining movement of the camera relative to the screen, the communication system of the present invention more convincingly creates the illusion that a remote participant is involved in a meeting. The screen accurately tracks the gaze of the remote participant.

The Examiner further writes that regarding claim 23, *Graham* discloses “the camera being fixedly connected with the means for displaying, wherein an attitude of camera is substantially similar to an attitude of the means for display, wherein the attitude for means for displaying is adapted to be controlled by the subject (abstract, page 3 line 5-18, page 5, lines 19-page 6, line 25, page 12 lines 28-30).” See OA, pages 3-4. Again referring to Figures 11, 11a, 11b and 14b, *Graham* describes an apparatus including an independently mounted and movable video camera **50**. As argued above, *Graham* teaches moving a video camera, tracking the video camera movement, and then moving the upper stage to align with the video camera. *Graham* does not teach a communication system “wherein a change in an attitude of the camera substantially tracks a change in an attitude of the means for displaying;” as recited in claim 23.

The Examiner further writes that regarding claim 41, *Graham* discloses “a method for conducting a conference, comprising...positioning the device such that the gaze of the subject is substantially directed at a first desired location...and repositioning the device...such that the gaze of the subject appears substantially directed at a second desired location and second desired location is displayed on the remote terminal.” Se OA, page 3. As argued above, *Graham* teaches moving a video camera, tracking the video camera movement, and then moving the upper stage to align with the video camera. *Graham* does not teach a method “wherein the capturing of the first and second desired locations using a camera is substantially synchronized with the positioning of the device,” as recited in claim 41.

Since *Graham* fails to disclose a communication system “wherein motion of the camera relative to the screen is confined such that when the camera is trained on the desired location (selected participant), a gaze of the subject displayed by the screen appears substantially directed at the desired location (selected participant),” as recited in claims 1 and 24, a communication system “wherein a change in an attitude of the camera substantially tracks a change in an attitude of the means for displaying;” as recited in claim 23, or a method “wherein the capturing of the first and second desired locations using a camera is substantially synchronized with the positioning of the device,” as recited in claim 41, *Graham* cannot anticipate claim 1, 23, 24 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Dependent claims have at least the features of the independent claim from which they depend; therefore, *Graham* cannot anticipate dependent claims 1-15 and 17 (which ultimately depend from claim 1), claims 25-36 and 38 (which ultimately depend from claim 24), and claim 42 (which depends from claim 41) under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(A) OVER *GRAHAM* IN VIEW OF *NIMIRI, ET AL.* (U.S. PAT. NO. 6,771,302)

Claims 16 and 37

The Examiner rejected claims 16 and 37 as being unpatentable over *Graham* in view of *Nimiri, et al.* (“*Nimiri*”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner writes that regarding claims 16 and 37, *Nimiri* discloses “videoconference closed caption system and method which teaches...non-verbal gesture is text displayed on the screen (fig. 7 col. 6 lines 14-42).” However, for the reasons given above in Section I, *Graham* fails to disclose a communication system “wherein motion of the camera relative to the screen is confined such that when the camera is trained on the desired location (selected participant), a gaze of the subject displayed by the screen appears substantially directed at the desired location (selected participant),” as recited in claims 1 and 24. *Nimiri* fails to remedy the deficiency of *Graham*, therefore *Graham* in view of *Nimiri* does not teach all of the features of claims 16 and 37, which ultimately depend from claims 1 and 24, respectively.

Since *Graham* in view of *Nimiri* fails to teach or suggest a communication system “wherein motion of the camera relative to the screen is confined such that when the camera is trained on the desired location (selected participant), a gaze of the subject displayed by the screen appears substantially directed at the desired location (selected participant),” *Graham* in view of *Nimiri* cannot render claim 1 and 24

obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Dependent claims have at least the features of the independent claim from which they depend; therefore, *Graham* in view of *Nimiri* cannot render dependent claims 16 and 37 obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

III. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(A) OVER GRAHAM IN VIEW OF KAJII, ET AL. (JP358021961A)

Claims 18 and 39

The Examiner rejected claims 18 and 39 as being unpatentable over *Graham* in view of *Kajii, et al.* (“*Kajii*”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner writes that regarding claims 18 and 39, *Kajii* discloses “audio remote control conference system which provides...a visual indication fo the direction of the origin of the sound to the subject.” However, for the reasons given above in Section I, *Graham* fails to disclose a communication system “wherein motion of the camera relative to the screen is confined such that when the camera is trained on the desired location (selected participant), a gaze of the subject displayed by the screen appears substantially directed at the desired location (selected participant),” as recited in claims 1 and 24. *Kirii* fails to remedy the deficiency of *Graham*, therefore *Graham* in view of *Kirii* does not teach all of the features of claims 18 and 39, which ultimately depend from claims 1 and 24, respectively.

Since *Graham* in view of *Kirii* fails to teach or suggest a communication system “wherein motion of the camera relative to the screen is confined such that when the camera is trained on the desired location (selected participant), a gaze of the subject displayed by the screen appears substantially directed at the desired location (selected participant),” *Graham* in view of *Kirii* cannot render claim 1 and 24 obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Dependent claims have at least the features of the independent claim from which they depend; therefore, *Graham* in view of *Nimiri* cannot render dependent claims 18 and 39 obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

IV. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(A) OVER GRAHAM IN VIEW OF ISHIBASHI (JP411234640A)

Claims 19 and 40

The Examiner rejected claims 19 and 40 as being unpatentable over *Graham* in view of *Ishibashi*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner writes that regarding claims 19 and 40, *Ishibashi* discloses “communication control system which teaches...remote receiver provides an audible indication of the direction of the origin of a sound to the subject (fig. 1, see abstract). However, for the reasons given above

in Section I, *Graham* fails to disclose a communication system “wherein motion of the camera relative to the screen is confined such that when the camera is trained on the desired location (selected participant), a gaze of the subject displayed by the screen appears substantially directed at the desired location (selected participant),” as recited in claims 1 and 24. *Ishibashi* fails to remedy the deficiency of *Graham*. *Ishibashi* teaches a “line-of-sight detection means” for controlling a video signal sent to remote participants. See Abstract. *Graham* in view of *Ishibashi* does not teach all of the features of claims 19 and 40, which ultimately depend from claims 1 and 24, respectively.

Since *Graham* in view of *Ishibashi* fails to teach or suggest a communication system “wherein motion of the camera relative to the screen is confined such that when the camera is trained on the desired location (selected participant), a gaze of the subject displayed by the screen appears substantially directed at the desired location (selected participant),” *Graham* in view of *Ishibashi* cannot render claim 1 and 24 obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Dependent claims have at least the features of the independent claim from which they depend; therefore, *Graham* in view of *Nimiri* cannot render dependent claims 19 and 40 obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

V. ADDITIONAL CLAIMS

Claims 43-45

The newly added claim is, it is submitted, allowable over the cited art.

VI. CONCLUSION

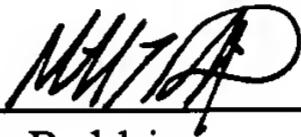
In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extending the time to respond up to and including today, May 3, 2005.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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